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A qualitative study on the need of environmental conservation for sustainable development

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Abstract

The environment of our planet is degrading at an alarming rate because of non-sustainable urbanization, industrialization and agriculture. Unsustainable trends in relation to climate change and energy use, threats to public health, poverty and social exclusion, demographic pressure and ageing, management of natural resources, biodiversity loss, land use and transport still persist and new challenges are arising. Since these negative trends bring about a sense of urgency, short term action is required, whilst maintaining a longer term perspective. The main challenge is to gradually change our current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and the non-integrated approach to policy-making. It offers a unique treatment of the subject, linking various protection strategies for sustainable development, describing the interrelationships between the laboratory and field eco-toxicologist, the biotechnology consultant, environmental engineers and different international environmental regulatory and protection agencies.

Keywords: Environment, urbanization, industrialization, sustainable, development

1. Introduction

In a vacuum no life is possible materials and forces which forms its environment and form which it must derive its needs surround every living organism. It is survival, a plant, an animal or a microbe cannot remain completely aloof in a shell. For diverse fundamental basic requirements each living organisms has to depend and also to interact with different living/biotic, non-living/ biotic compounds or environment. The right to development is a fundamental human right. We along with other developing countries have to find alternative paths to an alternative good. A goal of development is ultimately is the true, if the goal of development of environmentally sound and sustainable development. In 1987 in a seminar report named 'Our Common Future' the world commission on Environment and Development (The Brundt land Commission), bring in the term Sustainable and Development. The concept has terrifically worked out in creating public awareness for sustaining the planet with the enhanced management. The concept precisely stresses upon using the earth resources with caution and compensating for it in some sense and this would be resulted in maintaining the earth fine balance between resources consumption and resource generation.

1.1 Sustainable: The literal meaning of sustainability is "that can be maintained" or "keep goal continuously". In ecological sense it refers to "Conservation of ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources". Thus, it is understand that it is as something, which has got to do with longevity of a resources, commodity, species, ecosystem, earth, environment like as.

1.2 Development: The literal meaning of Development is "The act or instance of growth, advancement". So, the growth can be several types like as growth of population, growth of industry, growth of education, growth of forest and same as.

1.3 But what Type of Growth are we addressing to?

Here it is noted that one of the most sensitive issue of growing concern about improving the well-being of human beings.

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The Nation's economic development should not stand upon the earth's resources. Mahatma Gandhiji a great social scientist, rightly pointed out that "The earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need, but not everyone's greed."

1.4 Sustainable Development

The World Commission on Environmental and Development (1987) defined Sustainable development as development that meets of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sudhir and Soundhary (2006) defines Sustainable Development as a process by which the socially and economically deprived classes can attain a remarkable and required level of basic health, nutritional status, educational achievements, access to resources and increase in per capita income. According to Moore and Ryne (1995) Sustainable Development refers to creating a style of economic development which is Sustainable within the context of the planet's ecosystem and human society.

Sustainable Development is multilayer, which covers economic, social, political educational development. The puzzle of Sustainable Development cannot be solved by concentrating on point of pieces. It has to be seen in both its scientific and social dimension not as a series of a isolated problems or issues. Agenda 21 and other UN documents (Earth Charter, Millennium Declaration) emphasize that education and science are critical for promoting Sustainable Development and improving capacity of the people to address environment and developments. Ever since Sustainable Development has been a common concern in all UN conference and there has been a common consensus that education is a driving force for the change needed.

1.5 Environment

Environment has been defined as the aggregate of all external conditions and influences affecting the life and development of an organism. Environment is both a physical and milieu. Eduard Suess (1875) an Australian geologist has defined biosphere as the part of the world where life exists. The environment is any region or circumstances in which anything is exists or everything external to the organic or biotic milieu (geographical location) including non living organic matter and all other organisms, plants and animals in the region. Environment is viewed in different ways with different angels by different groups of people. Environment is interdisciplinary nature of studying which is related to mainly as under.

1. Physical Sciences
2. Bio-Sciences
3. Social Sciences and
4. Engineering

Newman (1981) classified Environmental discipline in four different sub-disciplines.

1. Environmental studies
2. Environmental Sciences
3. Environmental Engineer and
4. Teacher Education Programme

Conservation of the Environment is related to all these

aspects for sustainable development.

1.6 Meaning of Environmental Conservation

According to Dictionary of Environment (McMillan). Environmental Conservation means the planning and management of resources so as to secure their wise use and continuity of supply while maintaining and enhancing their quality, value and diversity. Resources may be man-made or natural. The action of conservation includes preservation from destructive influences, natural decay or waste.

According to Whyte (1977) Environmental perception is "Human Awareness" and general understanding of one's environment. Behavior in an Environment is influenced by our awareness of the need to adopt to the environment which in turn triggers to the behavior of the individuals. Conservation has been defined as "the management for the benefit of all life including mankind of the bio-sphere so that it may yields sustainable benefits to the present generation which maintaining its potential to the needs and aspiration of the future generations.

1.7 Characteristics of Environmental Conservation

1. Conservation is the careful use of the natural resources
2. Conservation is the wise use of land, air, water and other minerals.
3. Conservation rests on the perceptual levels the individuals
4. In concerns with human awareness and
5. Consciousness of the Environment

2. Objectives of conservation

1. To maintain essential ecological processes and life support system
2. To preserve biological diversity
3. To ensure that any utilization of species and ecosystem is sustainable
4. To preserve natural resources for feature generation
5. To use wisely land, water, air, forest and minerals

3. Categories of conservation

There are two main categories of Conservation are as follows.

1. In situ Conservation and
2. Ex situ Conservation

4. Types of conservation method

Natural resources are very essential for ecological balance and maintaining biodiversity of the area of environment.

4.1 Social Conservation Method

- a. Biological methods
- b. Mechanical method and
- c. Other methods

4.2 Forest and Wildlife Conservation Method

- a. Conservation of reserve forest
- b. Chipko moment
- c. Appiko chaluvali
- d. Environment Day
- e. Social Forestry and
- f. Forest Conservation Act1980

4.3 Water Conservation and Land Use Planning Methods

- a. Watershed management
- b. River valley projects
- c. Water land management
- d. Multipurpose projects

5. Need of conservation

Conservation has main focus to meet the need and aspirations of future generation and sustain the benefits of present generation by using carefully natural resources land, water, air and other minerals setting individual perception.

Expanding human population resulted into expanding needs of man. With Scientific progress and technological development man started utilizing natural resources at a larger scale. Conservation is also concerned with complete elimination of some unique species for which there may no alternative at all. There is urgent need to check the degradation of the environment and to maintain or restore the balance of the nature is the single most important challenge with different kind of internal as well as external dimension to mankind. In the perspective of economical and technical development of the world always had been better today than yesterday years and will always be better than tomorrow than today. But the condition of the environment will always be poorer than before. Hence, the concept of sustainable development raises particular questions for the present generation to answer.

6. Dimension of environmental conservation

Five basic aspects of the Environmental Conservation are given as under.

1. Environmental Awareness
2. Environmental Education
3. Resources Management
4. Environmental Impact assessment
5. Control of the Environmental pollution

7. Measures of environmental conservation

The following are main measures of Environmental Conservation.

1. An Ideal system for Genetic resources
2. Genetic Resources
3. International Treaty and Environmental Conservation Environmental Conservation Act.
4. World Environmental Commission
5. International organization and Environmental Conservation
6. National organization and Environmental Conservation
7. Education and Environmental Conservation

8. Environmental crisis

There is urgent need to maintain the quality of the environment by checking its degradation and maintain ecological balance.

1. Environmental/ Ecological Crisis
2. Population Crisis and Population Explosion
3. Energy Crisis
4. Perception Crisis

9. Guideline given by WCS for sustainable development

Under the auspices of the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN),

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and UNEP, a World Conservation Strategy (WCS) was prepared and release for adoption and implementation in India on 5th March, 1980. The WCS is to ensure the management of human use of biosphere in manner which may yield greater sustainable benefits to the present generation while maintaining its potential to meet the needs of aspirations of the future generation. The kinds of efforts that responsible agencies can and should make to encourage sustainable development outlined in the WCS. The framework of WCS attempt to provide guideline as under and how this could be done.

1. Defining clearly the concepts of Environmental Conservation.
2. Identifying the universally recognized area which has threatened life support system.
3. Enumerating the Conservation of objectives.
4. Indicating broad as well specific priority area of action at the national and international level.
5. Providing the framework for evolving the National Conservation Strategy (NCS). by different countries as well as mechanism for translation of strategies into operational plans and programme.

The WCS also stressed that NCS be prepared by keeping in the mind the needs and aspirations of the country. In India, the Sixth plan document emphasized the needs to ensure conservation of environmental resources for Sustainable Development.

10. Conclusion

Environment includes physical, social, cultural and psychological components, which are responsible for the growth and development of human kind. Conservation has main focus to meet the need and aspirations of future generation and sustain the benefits of present generation by using carefully natural resources land, water, air and other minerals setting individual perception. There is urgent need to check the degradation of the environment and to maintain or restore the balance of the nature is the single most important challenge with different kind of internal as well as external dimension to mankind.

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